



Fast Facts

Neonatal Kitten Care “Go Kit”

One of the easiest, most economical ways to prepare for the arrival of neonatal orphans, particularly during “kitten season”, is ensuring that commonly needed supplies are available immediately. Preparing portable neonatal kitten care kits enables shelters and rescue groups to quickly place incoming kittens with available appropriate foster care providers, minimizing exposure to the general population in the shelter – drastically reducing exposure and risk of illness. Having kits available instills confidence and encourages foster caregivers to continue volunteering, knowing they are properly equipped to address the needs of vulnerable neonates.



Carrier or lidded plastic container	Top-loading carriers make transport easy. The carrier also holds all the supplies for the “go kit”!	Bottles and nipples or nursing kit	Durable plastic bottles and assorted nipple sizes/shapes can be purchased in ready-to-use newborn animal nursing kits.	Cotton swabs	Use these to wipe Karo Syrup on kittens’ gums – also good for cleaning areas around the face.
Warming device	Young kittens cannot regulate their body temperature. SnuggleSafe warming discs are easy to clean.	Dawn dish soap	Original, blue, Dawn dish soap is a gentle and effective cleanser.	Cans of wet food	Sometimes kittens are too old for a bottle but will take to canned food.
Digital kitchen or postal scale	Keeping track of weight gain/loss is critical to raising healthy kittens.	Oral syringes	Syringes can be useful for feeding kittens that have trouble nursing from a bottle/nipple.	Basic care instruction sheet	Create one to provide basic info., including what to watch for and emergency contact details.
Toilet paper	Young kittens need manual stimulation to eliminate.	Thermometer	A quick-read (8 second), digital thermometer with a flexible tip is a must for monitoring sick, hyperthermic or hypothermic kittens.	Soft blankets	Squares of soft fleece can be layered to make excellent beds for newborn kittens.
Milk replacement powder or liquid	Make sure it is intended for kittens, such as Breeder’s Edge or KMR, and NOT cow’s milk or ‘Cat Milk’ treat!	Karo Syrup	Lethargic or unresponsive kittens may be hypoglycemic, and Karo Syrup wiped on the kitten’s gums will help raise glucose levels.	Stuffed animal	Especially helpful for single kittens needing a snuggle! (Make sure it’s free from buttons or items that can be accidentally ingested.)